Listing of Claims

1-4.   Cancelled.

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 4,~~ A method of generating an electronic mail message, comprising:

automatically generating an electronic mail message responsive to an action being performed on a database entry, wherein generating an electronic mail message comprises:

detecting performance of the action performed on the database entry;

triggering a user defined function (UDF) of the database which provides access to an electronic mail system in response to the detection of performance of the action on the database entry;

accessing the electronic mail system utilizing the UDF to request generation of the electronic mail message responsive to the UDF being triggered;

wherein detecting performance of the action and triggering a user defined function comprise establishing a database trigger associated with entries in the database, which database trigger activates the UDF upon an action being performed on at least one of the entries associated with the database trigger;

wherein the UDF carries out the steps of:

obtaining electronic mail information associated with the entry in the database; and

providing the obtained electronic mail information to an application program interface for the electronic mail system; and

wherein the application program interface provides abstract layering for the electronic mail system.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4<u>5</u>, wherein the application program interface comprises the JavaMail Application Program Interface.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~2~~<u>5</u>, wherein the action performed comprises an insertion of the entry into the database.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3̶5̲, wherein the database comprises a DB2 database.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2̶5̲, wherein the UDF comprises a first class which obtains the electronic mail information and a second class which provides the electronic mail message information to the electronic mail system.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2̶5̲, wherein the electronic mail system executes on a second data processing system remote from a first data processing system on which the database executes.

11.   (Currently Amended) A system for generating an electronic mail message, comprising:

a database having database entries;

a user defined function of the database configured to wrap access to an electronic mail system so as to generate an electronic mail message upon invocation of the user defined function; and

a database trigger associated with at least one of the database entries and configured to invoke the user defined function upon performance of an action on the at least one of the database entries;

wherein the user defined function comprises a first class which obtains electronic mail information associated with the database entry and a second class which provides the electronic mail message information to the electronic mail system; and

wherein the user defined function is configured to wrap access to the electronic mail system utilizing an application program interface which provides abstract layering for the electronic mail system.

12.-13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11 ~~of Claim 13~~, wherein the application program interface comprises a JavaMail application program interface.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for generating an electronic mail message, comprising:

means for detecting performance of an action performed on an entry in a database;

means for triggering a user defined function (UDF) of the database which provides access to an electronic mail system in response to the detection of performance of the action on the entry; ~~and~~

means for accessing the electronic mail system utilizing the UDF to initiate generation of the electronic mail message responsive to the UDF being triggered;

<u>wherein the user defined function comprises a first class which obtains electronic mail information associated with the database entry and a second class which provides the electronic mail message information to the electronic mail system; and</u>

<u>wherein the UDF is configured to wrap access to the electronic mail system utilizing an application program interface which provides abstract layering for the electronic mail system.</u>

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for generating an electronic mail message, comprising:

a computer readable media having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code that detects performance of an action performed on an entry in a database;

computer readable program code which triggers a user defined function (UDF) of the database which provides access to an electronic mail system in response to the detection of performance of the action on the entry; ~~and~~

computer readable program code which accesses the electronic mail system utilizing the UDF to initiate generation of the electronic mail message responsive to the UDF being triggered;

wherein the user defined function comprises a first class which obtains electronic mail information associated with the database entry and a second class which provides the electronic mail message information to the electronic mail system; and

wherein the UDF is configured to wrap access to the electronic mail system utilizing an application program interface which provides abstract layering for the electronic mail system.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 11, wherein the action performed comprises an insertion of the entry into the database.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 15, wherein the action performed comprises an insertion of the entry into the database.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein the action performed comprises an insertion of the entry into the database.